

VALLEY GAY PRESS

SINCE 1998 - THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 9 NO. 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2006



Scott Laubner
writes
"Scott Says"

Donnie Snyder
writes
"Planet
Parenthood"

Patricia Sullivan
writes
"Trish's Column"
& other articles

Earl Snyder
writes
"Planet
Parenthood"

Denise McKelvey
writes
"Rags to Riches"

Steve Libby
writes
"Rant & Raves"

Liz Bradbury
writes
"Liz Out Loud,"
"What's That About
"Pop Quiz,"
"Book Review,"
"Distelfink"
& designs & edits
the paper

VGP SALUTES OUR COLUMNISTS & OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Read about 2005 local GLBT accomplishments and the people responsible for them on page 7.

STATE AMENDMENT THREATENS FAMILIES

Representative Scott Boyd (R - Lancaster) is drafting an amendment to our state constitution that would deny gay and lesbian families legal recognition. Four other state representatives have already signed on to this discriminatory proposal called the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment. PA-GALA and other political groups are urging the community to encourage legislators to reject the amendment.

MCC PLANS FREEDOM TO MARRY COURTHOUSE ACTION & CEREMONY

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
observes
National Freedom
to Marry Day

Court House Action - February 10
Service, Reception & Dance
- February 11 -



DANCE &
RECEPTION
FEB. 10 & 11

Same-Sex Couples are needed for Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley's 2006 National Freedom to Marry Day Observance. Please consider participating in these history-making events to advocate for marriage equality! Consider taking a day off from work to be a part of seeking equality and justice for all. Friday, February 10, 10 a.m. Rally @ the Social Security Administration Building, 4th & Hamilton Streets, Allentown. 11 a.m. Marriage License applications at the Lehigh County Courthouse, 5th & Hamilton, Allentown. For full information about the actions and ceremony see page 5.

HAVEN PROM SEEKS SUPPORT

HAVEN's 2006 Prizm Prom is set for Saturday, April 29, at the Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center Street in Bethlehem. The prom is for all GLBT youth and their under-21 guests and allies, and is chaired by HAVEN facilitator Rachel Thompson. The Prizm Prom will feature fun, food, and a professional DJ. The prom seeks financial and community support. To donate time or materials contact Ilse Stoll-Zinnes, zinnes@verizon.net, 610-868-2153.

PROGRESSIVE STUDENT ALLIANCE FORMS

See page 6

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley
610-HELP-123
(610-435-7123)

THERE WILL BE NO
FEBRUARY VGP



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editor Liz Bradbury with
questions about GLBT issues.

Dear WTA, Did Ford cut our throats or not? It's so hard to keep up... **Signed, Focus or Forester**

Dear F/F, First they said they will and then they won't, then they say they do and then they don't... so what are ya gonna do?

The anti-gay American Family Association (whenever you see the word Family in the name, run - Family Dollar, Focus On the Family, Pennsylvania Family Institute = danger every time) said they had threatened Ford with a boycott if Ford didn't pull its advertising from gay publications like the Advocate. National Gay Organizations jumped into gear and demanded a clarification from Ford. Ford was a little slow, but as the ire of the gay community grew (and let's face it, we're far more likely to follow through with a boycott on Ford than the average fa-right person), Ford caved and came out with a strong commitment to continue marketing to us in gay publications.

They boycott - we boycott. What's the difference in the motive? We boycott when someone tries to take away our rights. The "Family" associations incite boycotts to hurt organizations that are for equal rights. Yes, their rational was that you should not give money to a company that supports the idea of equal rights for same-sex families. Funny, we have never tried to take away their right to work, adopt or get married. That's the difference.

FYI ON NJ'S NEW SENATOR

Rep. Robert Menendez - tapped by New Jersey Gov.-elect Jon Corzine to fill his Senate seat - has a strong record of fairness on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) issues, according to the Human Rights Campaign's congressional scorecard.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

WEB SITE: WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

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Organizations that have VGP for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PLFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Allentown, 610.967.5219 [HTTP://www.eastern-palflag.org/](http://www.eastern-palflag.org/)

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St, Allentown

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)

- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Phone: 610-432-5449

Email: info@padiversity.org To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP Some restrictions apply.

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I have decided to move our family to a larger home. Our child is getting older and we need more space. We will be selling our existing home for about \$110,000. We would like to sell it ourselves while our new home is being built. Would you give us some pros and cons on our new endeavor? **Signed, For Sale By Owner**

Dear FSBO, Some Joyous Reasons:

- to withdraw some equity from your existing home
- more space for your child
- perhaps to have more children
- to encourage your child to live on her own
- you can afford a bigger home

Some Not-So Joyous reasons:

- a death in the family
- a job has been downsized
- a break up with a partner
- the need for assisted living
- you and your neighbors have been feuding for years and you lost the coin toss

Some Miscellaneous Reasons:

- your pets have been uninvited to live in your condo
- you need a change of view
- you've gotten a job with a 90 minute commute, one way

There are dozens of reasons for selling your home and each of them carries its own set of problems and stress levels (even the joyous ones). I think you need to understand the ramifications of selling this property. It takes a certain temperament to accomplish this task. Most people find the monies saved in the process may not be worth it. The adage "a lawyer who acts as his own attorney has a fool for a client" was never more applicable than here.

You may find after putting the sign on the lawn and placing the ad in the newspaper, you suddenly have two full time jobs and that you have given up your nights and weekends. Be prepared for the phone to ring at all hours. Some people will just be shopping, with no intention of buying. An anonymous neighbor might just be trying to get a feel of what their place is worth.

What if you have an open house and nobody shows? On the other hand, what if many people decide to take a peek? Some say nothing; some can't keep their mouths shut. Some will ask all kinds of questions, some will compliment your taste in decorating skills, while others will make insulting comments and not necessarily in hushed tones. You need to be able to remove your emotions from the scene. In today's market, FSBO may be best left to a professional. A real estate broker won't take anything personally, because they don't have any emotional attachment to the property.

If you are still up to tackling the task, some dedicated real estate sites are: For Sale By Owners at [HTTP://webbrowsers.com/fsbomd00.htm](http://webbrowsers.com/fsbomd00.htm) and By Owner.com at [HTTP://byowner.com](http://byowner.com) and Yahoo Real Estate @ yahoo.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial located at 5100 Tilghman Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

Businesses that have VGP for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub - 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's - 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop - N. 19th St. Allentown

Fountainhead Book & Gifts-- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading

Monthly Direct Mail Distribution-

Become a member of PA Diversity Network to get the Valley Gay Press mailed directly to your home. Send \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a family membership to: PA Diversity Network, PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002. There are 10 VGP issues per year.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenuyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153. **HAVEN** needs facilitators. Facilitator training provided.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pafplag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pafplag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234 .Meeting Dates: Allentown: January 3, February 7; March 7; Monroe: Jan. 4, Feb 1, March 1; Reading: Jan 17, February 21, March 21

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will make its debut at Godfrey Daniels on Sunday, February 26 at 4 PM. Godfrey Daniels is located at 7 E 4th St in Bethlehem, PA. Tickets are \$15. Seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling Godfrey Daniels at 610-867-2390.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will present their annual cabaret, "Gay-Tel Presents - The Ultimate Hits of the 60's" on March 17 and 18 at the Stonewall Moose Lounge in Allentown, PA. Join the members of the LVGMC in an evening of song that will be sure to bring back memories of a time not too far past. For tickets or more information, contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 or atinfo@lvgmc.org.

STEVIE Z

Stevie performs piano music at the MooseLounge in Allentown, 9PM-Midnite: Friday January 6, Friday February 24, Friday March 31(9PM-Midnite) 1/2 of tips for Jan/Feb/March go to: AIDS Outreach

GLORA

GLORA, The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, organizes social events for LV GLBT singles and couples. Contact GLORA <http://glora.colony.com> or email Gloraj@dejazzed.com

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GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) holds frequent get togethers. Racquetball is Tuesday and Saturday evenings at the Allentown Racquetclub.

On a monthly basis, GLOSS offers bowling, pinochle, and game night. Bowling is held the second Friday of the month at the Rose Bowl in Allentown at 8:45PM. Pinochle is the first Saturday of the month and game night is usually on the third Saturday.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Contact GLOSS: Info@gloss.org; web: www.gloss.org; or US Mail: PO Box 21862, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002.

MCC DRAG SHOW

The MCCLV fellowship team is planning a Drag Show/ Potluck to be held January 14, 5pm at MCCLV. Drag Kings and Queens - whether you are a regular performer, a beginner, or just want to have a lot of fun, anyone is welcome to participate in the drag show. If you are interested there will be 3 meetings, Thursday, December 29 @ 7pm, Thursday Jan 5 @ 7pm, and the dress rehearsal will be Thursday, Jan 12 @ 7pm. Bring your own CD. For further information on how you can participate, please the church at 610-709-8800 or email: fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org.

MCC EVENTS

The First Friday of the month is Friday Night Live at MCCLV, for more info go to the church website or contact the church.

Spaghetti dinner and service auction hosted by the Helping Hands Ministry will be on January 28, at 5 PM. Info@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800

THEATER OUTLET

Jan 19-21, Theatre Outlet will present Portland Performance Artist Joe VonAppen in "Ritalin Chic." Joe Von Appen paints a picture of American Dysfunction in his highly anticipated new performancepiece.

THEATER OUTLET

Feb 17-March 4, TO presents Lee Blessing's "Eleemosynary". Three generations of strong women are represented in this moving Lee Blessing play. The eccentric grandmother, the caged daughter, and the granddaughter who tries to be the glue that holds them together.

Performances of Ritalin Chic and Eleemosynar: Thurs-Sunday at 8pm, Tickets: \$18/adult, \$15/student&senior, \$10.00/student Thursdays.

TIM MILLER AT MUHLENBERG

Gay Advocate & Performance Artist
TIM MILLER at Muhlenberg College.
BE ADVISED THIS EVENT IS FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY.

Tim's solo performance of "US" will take place for a public audience in the Baker Theatre of the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance on the Muhlenberg College campus on Thursday, January 19. "Us" deals with Miller's love affair since childhood with Broadway musicals and delves into an exploration of gay marriage, exile and the injustices lesbian and gay people face in America. The program is part of Muhlenberg College's year-long exploration of "The Ethics and Politics of Identity" planned by the Center for Ethics.

Miller's performances have been presented all over North America and Europe in such prestigious venues as Yale Repertory Theatre, the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. His publications based on his politics and performance art include *O Solo Homo*, Grove Press, 1998, *Shirts & Skin*, Alyson Publications, 1997 and *Body Blows*, Six, Performances by Tim Miller, University of Wisconsin Press, 2002. His newest book, *1001 Beds: Performances, Essays and Travels*, will be published in March, 2006 for the series, *Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies*.

Online Tickets for US - Tickets \$10. For 10 or more (\$8 tickets), please email your reservations. Online www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets or 484-664-3333.

TO GET VGP

Direct mail subscriptions from PA Diversity Network of the Valley Gay Press will begin in 2006 to members of PA Diversity Network. To become a member of PA Diversity Network, send \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a family membership to PA Diversity Network, PO Box 22902, Lehigh Valley, PA 18102.

CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets
<http://www.jrf.org/amhaskapa>, 610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK-see FACT

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berkgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CHICOMAX.com- Informational website CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <citivetheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo-groups.com.

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net equal@agere, email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gaydar Magazine-- www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN - at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranchollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.gloratcolony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV- call: 610-8-68-2-153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity-Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBT group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo groups.com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGM -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvgmc.org, <www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcllehighvalley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 882-2531

19th St & Civic Theatre- 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

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JANUARY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HMFF WHDY MCC	2 RAA	3 LVGM LVPFLAG	4 HAVEN M PFLAG	5 GLOSS RAA	6 StevieZ MCC Fri. Nite Live	7 GLOSS WDIY
8 HMFF Tubing Skiing MCC	9	10 LVGM	11 HAVEN	12 GLOSS RAA	13	14 WDIY GLOSS MCC drag show
15 UUCLV MCC ML King HMFF WDIY	16	17 GLOSS R PFLAG LVGM	18 HAVEN P PFLAG Tim Miller Muhlenberg	19 RAA P PFLAG "Eleemosynary" @ TO	20	21 WDIY GLOSS "Eleemosynary" @ TO
22	23 RAA	24 GLOSS LVGM	25 HAVEN	26 GLOSS RAA	27	28 WDIY GLOSS MCC dinner auction
29 WDIY UUCLV WDIY	30	31 LVGM	HAVEN	RAA GLOSS		WDIY GLOSS
		RAA				

FEBRUARY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 M PFLAG HAVEN	2 GLOSS RAA PA-GALA	3 MCC Fri. Nite Live	4 GLOSS WDIY PSA@ Muhlenberg Stevie Z
5 HMFF UUCLV WDIY	6 RAA	7 GLOSS LVGM LVPFLAG	8 HAVEN	9 RAA GLOSS	10 MCC FTMD Court House	11 GLOSS WDIY MCC FTMD Ceremony
12 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	13 RAA	14 GLOSS LVGM	15 HAVEN	16 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	17	18 WDIY GLOSS
19 HMFF MCC WDIY UUCLV	20 RAA	21 GLOSS LVGM R PFLAG	22 HAVEN	23 Pride GLOSS RAA	24 StevieZ Muhlenberg Play	25 WDIY GLOSS
26 WDIY UUCLV HMFF EVGM Concert	27 RAA	28 GLOSS LVGM				

MARCH 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN M PFLAG	2 RAA GLOSS	3 MCC Fri. Nite Live	4 WDIY GLOSS
5 Gaydar Event	6	7 GLOSS LVGM LVPFLAG	8 HAVEN	9 RAA GLOSS	10	1 WDIY GLOSS
12 WDIY	13 GLOSS RAA	14 GLOSS LVGM	15 HAVEN	16 RAA P PFLAG	17	18 GLOSS WDIY Gay Men's Chorus Cabaret
19 MCC GLOSS WDIY UUCLV	20 RAA	21 GLOSS LVGM R PFLAG	22 HAVEN	23 RAA GLOSS	24	25 WDIY GLOSS
26 UUCLV	27 RAA	28 GLOSS LVGM	29 HAVEN	30 RAA GLOSS	31 Stevie Z	

PARENTS-GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519
PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of
Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church
Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride
Festival) 610.770.6200, e-mail:
<info@pridevg.org>, www.pridelv.org

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College,
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route
512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA.
Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs.
At 16th and Turner.

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc.,
Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG: 610-967-5219

Safe Space AtLehigh U. 610.758.5973

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge
St., Coaldale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt.
Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet- Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424

Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449,
www.padiiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee

Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This

Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

LVGM REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
GLOSS RACQUETBALL-TUES & SATS
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 1ST WEDS
PA-GALA - 1ST THURSDAYS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURSDAYS
POETRY CIRCLE - FRIDAYS
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
COFFEE & STORIES - LAST FRI
GLOSS PINOCHLE - 1ST SATS
GLOSS GAME NIGHTS - 3RD SATS
AL-ANON - SATS
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS

JAN 3 - LV PFLAG
JAN 4 - MONROE PFLAG
JAN 6 - MCC FRI NITE LIVE
JAN 6 - STEVEZ@MOOSELOUNGE
JAN 8 - PHILAVVENTURES
TUBING AND SKIING
JAN 14 - MCCLY DRAG SHOW
JAN 15 - MCC FTMD MTG
JAN 15 - MCC MLK OBSERVANCE
JAN 17 - READING PFLAG
JAN 18 - TIM MILLER @ MUHLENBERG
JAN 19-21 - TO ELEEMOSYNARY
JAN 28 - MCCLY DINNER &
SERVICE AUCTION
FEB 1 - MONROE PFLAG
FEB 3 - MCC FRI NITE LIVE
FEB 4 - PROGRESSIVE STUDENT
ALLIANCE@ MUHLENBERG
FEB 7 - LV PFLAG
FEB 10 - MCC FTMD EVENT
FEB 11 - MCC FTMD CEREMONY & DANCE
FEB 21 - READING PFLAG
FEB 23-26 MUHLENBERG PLAY
FEB 23 - PRIDE ANNUAL MTG
FEB 24 - STEVEZ@MOOSELOUNGE
FEB 26 - LVGM CONCERT
MAR 1 - MONROE PFLAG
MAR 3 - MCC FRI NITE LIVE
MAR 5 - GADAR EVENT
MAR 17-18 LVGM CABARET
MAR 21 - READING PFLAG
MAR 31 - STEVEZ@MOOSELOUNGE
APR 29 - HAVEN PROM

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
VGP@PADIIVERSITY.ORG

MCC'S FREEDOM TO MARRY COURT ACTION

Speakers are needed for the Rally at the Social Security Building on Friday morning and same-sex couples are needed to apply for marriage licenses at the Courthouse Action on Friday, February 10. Couples are asked to have been together for at least one year and be okay with media coverage. You will be denied a license but will be a part of history, as your names will be on record. Couples must bring the following: \$35 in cash. No checks or credit cards. Non-refundable! A Social Security card and a photo driver's license or photo ID. If a non-U.S. citizen: A greencard, passport or birth certificate in addition to photo ID.

If previously legally married and divorced, a certified copy of the divorce decree is required (available in the county where the divorce occurred).

If previously legally married and the spouse died, a copy of the death certificate, published obituary, published funeral notice or funeral card is required.

FYI: You do not need to be a resident of Lehigh County to apply for a marriage licence at the Lehigh County Courthouse. Lehigh County is one of the only places in PA that will even let same-sex couples apply for a license. And your denied application will be kept on file, becoming a historical record of your effort for marriage equality.

This file in Lehigh County, with a growing number of denials of marriage licenses for same-sex couples, is a concrete statement that we exist, we want equal rights and we are being denied those rights on paper. No one can say - gay people don't really want to get married anyway - with this record in place. Be a part of history!

To participate, please contact MCCLV at 610-709-8800 or info@mcclv.org

MCC'S FREEDOM TO MARRY CEREMONY & CELEBRATION

Same-Sex Couples are needed to participate in a special marriage ceremony on Saturday, February 11. Requirements for marriage include the couple being together for one year and a meeting at the church. This is a very moving and sacred setting for you to exchange your vows. Should you choose to marry on February 11, you and your family and friends would be provided with a free reception and dance and will be married by over a dozen clergy people representing a variety of faith traditions.

If you are able to participate, please contact MCCLV as soon as possible.

PLANNING FTMD EVENTS

To help with the planning, please attend the next planning meeting on Tuesday, January 17 at 5 p.m. at MCCLV.

MCC'S ML KING DAY OBSERVANCES

MCCLV Observes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day Sunday, January 15, 10:30 am and 6:00 pm. Worship Services will include a dramatic reading of "I've Been to the Mountaintop." Rev. King delivered this speech in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis on April 3, 1968 - the day before he was assassinated.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY FEARLESS OSCAR PREDICTIONS-- HAPPY NEW YEAR

For the record, this is 12/25/06 and I am on an island in Maine as I write this. I could not be farther from the show biz capital of the world, Hollywood. While visions of sugarplums dance in the heads of the young and young at heart, you can bet that the Ebeneezer Scrooges in Los Angeles are scheming plans to win the Golden Globes, Screen Actor's Guild and all other awards which influence the winners of the Academy Awards, potentially adding millions of dollars to the gross of nominated films.

Some gays watch the Awards for the fashion, some to star watch, some out of curiosity. This year some might even be watching because of the GLBT friendly hopefuls: Brokeback Mountain, TransAmerica, Rent and The Producers. Not me. For me the Academy Awards have always been about the awards. And about the politics of who is chosen the "best".

Of course the "best" performance doesn't always win the trophy. Illness, comebacks, death, and attitude all play into the politics of takes home the gold. For now let's just concentrate on the nominees for the AA, to be handed out Sunday, March 5.

Best Picture: Brokeback Mountain, Goodnight and Good Luck, Munich, Walk The Line, The Constant Gardener or Match Point

Best Actor: Heath Ledger, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Joquin Phoenix, David Strathairn, Jeff Daniels or Ralph Fiennes

Best Actress: Reese Witherspoon, Felicity Hoffman, Keira Knightley, Laura Linney, Maria Bello or Scarlett Johaansen

Best Supporting Actor: Paul Giamatti, George Clooney, Oliver Platt, Terrence Howard, Will Farrell

Best Supporting Actress: Shirley MacLaine, Michelle Williams, Frances McDormand, Toni Collette, Anne Hathaway

Best Director: Ang Lee (BM), Steven Speilberg (M), George Clooney (GNGL), Woody Allen (Match Point), Noah Baumbach (TSTW)

Documentary should be: Mad Hot Ballroom.

PLANET

Parenthood

by Earl and Donnie Snyder
donniearlucas@msn.com

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

This past year we could hardly wait to take Lucas for his picture with Santa Claus or "E-Cauz" as Lucas calls him. We planned on sending out the pictures with our holiday cards or even making cards out of the pictures. It was not the Santa Claus experience we'd hoped for. They took nine pictures, each one reflecting a different stage of the terror associated with being abandoned by your dads into the clutches of the giant, living, breathing version of the stuffed Santa at home that became the dogs chew toy. When the crying escalated, the photographer decided Lucas's photo session was over. She called for Daddy to pick him up. Both of us looked at each other to retrieve the little one, and both of us ended up rescuing him. Such drama.

Also on the agenda was attending the adoption agency's holiday cookie exchange party. It gave us a chance to meet with other adoptive parents and potential adoptive parents. We had the distinct honor of representing a successful two-parent gay adoptive family. We fielded some questions from some of the straight adoptive parents who actually seemed quite impressed that we were able to successfully adopt. It took perseverance and faith, and we owe it all to the birth mother for selecting us. She had a lot of faith and a very open mind. Thank you, Nancy.

... Then the dreaded "E-Cauz" made a "surprise" appearance at the cookie party. Time for us to go.

We had a hefty social calendar this holiday season with invitations to the homes of various family, friends, and co-workers. As always, Lucas is included in the invitations. In fact his presence is usually demanded and ensured with follow-up calls from the hosts. Not to say that our hosts are not glad to see us, but Lucas always becomes the center of attention. Are we jealous? Not in the least. Life has never been better than since we became dads. Yes, it is aging us more quickly than we would like and being tired has become the norm; so these two "tired ole queens" are more than willing to turn the crown over to the little prince.

MUHLENBERG PERFORMANCE

The Muhlenberg Theatre Association presents Big Love, a physically explosive comedy by Charles L. Mee, February 23-26. A Greek tragedy irreverently reborn into contemporary American culture, Big Love explodes with theatrical mayhem in a resort full of runaway brides seeking asylum from their jilted grooms. This theatrical collision of vengeance and passion, justice and compassion, is directed by Beth Schachter (recently directed Hedwig and the Angry Inch). Baker Theatre, Muhlenberg College from February 23-26, 2006: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets \$15. Online www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets or 484-664-3333.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

The leaders of Vote On Marriage, an umbrella group of anti-marriage activists, are charging harassment by a Massachusetts gay couple who have launched a Web site listing all the names and addresses of the reported 123,356 signatories to a petition in support of a ban on same-sex marriage (the signatures and addresses are public information under Mass. law). The site, KnowThyNeighbor.org, is ostensibly for the purpose of allowing citizens to investigate fraudulent signatures.

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

CELEBS ON THE CRIB SEARCH

To the chipmunk readers who have been following my New York story, here is an update on my crib search,



I have come to the realization that I can not afford an apartment on my own and so I have been calling numbers on Craig's list looking for housemates. I answered one and went to check it out. It turns out the guy who is looking for someone to take an empty room in a three bedroom house on 150th street is Gilbert Baker. I never heard of Gilbert Baker before but I am familiar with his work.

Gilbert Baker is the man who created the first rainbow flag. Harvey Milk, the San Francisco supervisor, asked him to design a symbol that would unite the gay community. Milk felt the pink triangle had a negative past and he wanted a new, positive symbol. So Gilbert designed the rainbow flag and the rest is homo history.

Gilbert and I talked for about an hour at the kitchen table. I think I made a good impression, but he has not yet confirmed if I get the room. At the time of this writing he still had not made up his mind but with this crazy transit strike in New York today, everything has been pushed back in this city. City Mouse

SKIING & TUBING

GLOSS brings you this information from the Philly GLBT organization PhilaVentures: Snow Tubing and Downhill Skiing on Blue Mountain, Sunday, January 8. Note different starting times.

Tubing and downhill runs at Blue Mountain are located at the base of the mountain near the Valley Lodge.

Tubers will meet at the Valley Lodge at 12:15 p.m. sharp. to purchase tickets. Lift tickets for the tubing are \$18 per person.

For downhill skiing, this is an easy to moderate mountain. Ski lift tickets are about \$45. Skiers meet at the Valley Lodge at 10:15 a.m. sharp. Buy your own lift ticket. Ski Group leaves for the slopes at 10:30 a.m. If you miss the group on the first round, meet afterwards in the cafeteria in the Valley Lodge at 1:30 p.m. If you are renting ski equipment arrive 1 hour earlier.

The two groups will have dinner together at Perkins Family Restaurant.

Tubers contact 610-247-3157 or e-mail at musicmoc1@juno.co. Skiers contact mfxr@comcast.net (preferred) or cell on the day of the event until 10:30 a.m. at 610-209-1610.

PROGRESSIVE STUDENT ALLIANCE

Calling progressive college students in the Lehigh Valley! The newly formed Lehigh Valley Progressive Student Alliance, representing students at Lehigh, Moravian, Cedar Crest, Muhlenberg, Lafayette, Lehigh Carbon, Kutztown, Northampton, and DeSales, will host its second conference at Muhlenberg College on Saturday Feb 4, from 11 AM-2:30 pm. The Alliance is especially seeking students from Kutztown, DeSales, and Lehigh Carbon. The conference will cover progressive issues ranging from the environment, economic justice, peace, GLBT and women's equality and more. Please RSVP to Adrian Shanker, co-chair of the conference at AS233422@muhlenberg.edu by Saturday Jan. 28.



LIZ OUT LOUD[®]

By Liz Bradbury

7 TRISH'S COLUMN THE HEROES OF 2005

By Patricia Sullivan



Here's an article by both Liz and Trish celebrating some of the significant and unique accomplishments by GLBT community members in 2005 (in no particular order - all were and continue to be important.)

The positive court decision on Allentown's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. Here's to attorney **Dan Anders** and the pro-bono legal team defending the Ordinance for the City, and the City of Allentown itself for supporting the Ordinance. This pro-GLBT rights decision was closely watched across the state. The win solidly affirms the right of a PA city to protect its GLBT citizens, and all citizens, from discrimination.

-The Crime Victims Council's collaboration with the Allentown School District to develop a bullying prevention program and research survey for all Allentown High School students. This unique program works to prevent harassment, violence and bullying,, including anti-GLBT harassment, violence and bullying in a direct way.

---MCC's 2005 Freedom to Marry Day action was even bigger and better this year, increasing the number of couples participating by 400%. The couples, who appeared on TV news coverage, helped educate the Lehigh Valley about inequality due to the lack of civil marriage rights for same-sex couples.

---Steve Libby and the Gaydar Magazine production staff for having pulled off a full year of the magazine to rave reviews. This was and continues to be quite a task, but each magazine gets better and better. Gaydar's efforts to support the community (including fund raisers for GLBT not-for-profit organizations) are extraordinary.

---Steve Black, as an openly gay candidate in a very small town, who won the election for Pen Argyl Tax Collector.

---Allyson Dianne Hamm, longtime GLBT activist, for bringing the US Regional Interweave Conference (a national GLBT group) to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley.

---Muhlenberg Freshman Adrian Shanker's success in lobbying his college to change its non-discrimination policy to include the words gender identity.

---And Muhlenberg College for changing the policy and highlighting gender identity in its year long program on identity planned by Muhlenberg's Center for Ethics.

---Here's to all the GLBT people who worked directly on the many triumphant campaigns of pro-GLBT candidates. Including, but not limited to, volunteer **Donna Cruciani** who helped to lead the Get Out the Vote effort in Allentown that was so broadly successful.

---This year's Anniversaries included: The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus' 10th anniversary and the 20th anniversary of the FACT Summer Games.

---(Blowing our own horn) We are very proud of the work of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. Including: **PA Diversity's Greater Lehigh Valley GLBT Infoline**- An average of a call a day comes through the Infoline from GLBTA people asking for help and information about GLBT issues.

---PA Diversity's Web Site- In just one year, with over 200 listings of GLBT friendly services, businesses and organizations, this web site has become the most extensive GLBT service information site in the state, thanks to the hard work of **Web Master Robert Roush**.

---PA Diversity's Valley Gay Press - Ten thousand VGP newspapers were produced and read this year. With a average of 40 articles, seven original columns, investigative reporting and a ton of information, VGP offers a way for local GLBT organizations to get information to the community at no charge, as we have been doing for nearly 8 years.

---PA Diversity representatives did over 15 trainings and presentations this year to colleges, groups and community organizations on GLBT issues.

---PA Diversity's art show fundraiser at the PA Diversity Gallery Space was an interesting and successful out-reach event that involved several other GLBTA organizations and supported the arts in the Lehigh Valley.

---And also due to the hard work of Robert Roush, PA Diversity Network was able to achieve its 501c3 status as a charitable not-for-profit organization in less than one year. PA Diversity is now seeking grants to broaden our services to the community.

We heartily thank the PA Diversity Board for all their work, support and help on all these projects.

We also celebrate, thank and cheer the work of all the volunteers, activists and organizations supporting, educating and entertaining the GLBT community and furthering the rights of every local GLBT community member. Happy New Year and Keep Up the Good Work!!!

IN THE NEWS

Rachel Thompson was featured in an article on police brutality in Amnesty International Magazine, Winter 2005.

GLBT AL-ANON AT MCCLV

GLBT Al-Anon Meeting at 12 Noon, every Saturday at MCC. For information, call Chris: 484-767-3951 or Terry: 610-547-1125. Al-Anon Family Groups are relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope.

GAYDAR MAGAZINE BEGINS '06 EVENTS

The Academy Awards start The Gaydar Magazine Fundraising cycle. Gaydar hosted 5 benefits in 2005 that raised close to \$7000 for different GLBT friendly groups throughout the Lehigh Valley. Thanks to all those who attended. Mark your Calendar for the 2nd annual Oscar Bash hosted by Gaydar Magazine at Federal Grill, March 5, 7pm-midnight, \$25.00 - includes appetizers, desserts and a couple of cocktails. The event benefits Pride of the Lehigh Valley, HAVEN and AIDS Outreach. Email gaydar@ gaydarmagazine @ hotmail.com to donate items to the raffle, to volunteer at the event or with other questions.

PRIDE MEETING

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley invites all interested community members and current pride members to attend the Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 23 at the Pride Office, at 7pm, located at 1101 W. Hamilton St., Allentown. A year in review presentation will be shared to highlight the group's progress over the past year. The Board of Directors for the 2006 term will be elected. The Annual Budget will be presented and confirmed by an affirmative member vote (voting privileges are restricted to paid members only). To be considered for a position on the Board of Directors contact Rob Hopkins at rhopkins@prideglv.org. To become a Pride GLV member visit www.prideglv.org for a membership application.

POP QUIZ

8

1. Judge John E. Jones III, who found against teaching Intelligent Design in Dover PA classrooms, was: A. appointed by Clinton, B. appointed by G.W. Bush C. a republican D. a democrat

2. On Dec. 19, 2005, a lesbian couple exchanged legal civil partnership vows in: A. Belfast, Ireland B. Lisbon, Portugal C. Brazil D. Zambia

3. The above ceremony was protested by a small group of: A. Catholics B. Protestants C. Muslims D. Parliament members

4. The movie Brokeback Mountain was directed by:

5. Chances are good that the next country to grant full same-sex marriage rights will be:
A. Israel B. Bosnia C. South Africa D. Laos

6. If the above country grants these rights, there will then be ____ countries that grant full legal same-sex marriage rights. A. 3 B. 5 C. 7 D. 9

7. The other countries that now have full legal same-sex marriage are:

8. This year ____ states defeated attempts to write discrimination into their state constitutions.
A. 6 B. 10 C. 15 D. 18

9. With the addition of Maryland and Colorado, ____ states include gender identity and ____ states include sexual orientation in their hate crime laws.
A. 3 & 10 B. 5 & 15 C. 8 & 25 D. 10 & 31

10. Pennsylvania added sexual orientation and gender identity to its hate crime law in: A. 2002 B. 2005 C. has not added them yet D. does not have a hate crimes law

1. BBC 2. A 3.B. 4.Ang Lee 5.C. 6.B. 7.Spain, Belgium
Netherlands, Canada 8.C. 9.D. 10.A

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

It's The One That You Want... Margaret Cho's autobiography, a deeply personal and revealing journey through her life and career, draws you in and fascinates you. The book, written in 2001, candidly chronicals some of the most painful events imaginable. Anyone who has ever been discriminated against can relate. Cho, who is straight but remarkably and sincerely supportive of the queer community, felt the sting of anti-woman and anti-Asian prejudice from pre-school on and endured astounding "body-type" discrimination as well. She openly presents her pain, and her drug and alcohol abuse reaction to it, in a remarkably direct and frequently funny way. It's one of the few autobiographies ever that doesn't insist at the end that all the problems have been solved (autobiographers usually write that whether it's true or not.) Yet, there is a strength in Maraget Cho's words that makes the reader feel hope.

"I'm The One That I Want," By Margeret Cho, Ballantine Books \$22.95

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color or religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, status, family status, age, disability, or use of a service animal in areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater
19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Rodef

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

QUOTE #1

"Ford's action is a positive outcome and win for equality and fairness, Ford has sent a powerful signal that corporate America values its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees and consumers." -- Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

QUOTE #2

"The religious right would do well to learn, as the Grinch did, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in commercial expressions of 'Merry Christmas,' nor in 'my faith is better than yours' thinking; if the spirit of Christmas is to exist at all, it must be kept alive in the hearts of believers." -- Imam Daayee Abdulla of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Religious Round Table

QUOTE #3

"(State Representative Robert) Belfanti, I moved to your district in March 2005 to take a job with Geisinger Health System. In August of 2005, my partner of 17 years lost his job. Luckily, Geisinger offers health benefits to domestic partners. If you write laws denying him the ability to be covered, what will we do? We would have nowhere to turn. The position I took is a difficult technical position, and Geisinger had trouble filling the post. If Pennsylvania keeps writing venomous laws of hatred against our people, we will be forced to leave the state, depleting resources in jobs like mine that save people's lives." -- From a letter by Robert Roush to his State Rep. (in the Bloomsburg-Danville area) about a bill pushing a PA State Constitutional Amendment against same-sex marriage and same-sex family rights, that could nullify domestic partner benefits given by businesses. Belfanti called Robert to say not only that he would not vote for the bill, but that his Chief of Staff is a lesbian.

QUOTE #4

"Throughout history, gay people such as myself and David have often been made scapegoats by those who fear that we are a threat to the status quo." -- Elton John, who married his partner David Furnish in a UK civil ceremony the day such unions became legal in mid-December. UK civil marriages grant equal marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Distelfink © "2005 10 Top Stupid by Ruby Zebu Anti-Gay Far Right Faux Pas"

10. James Dobson witch-hunts Sponge Bob.
9. Bush's Education Secretary Margaret Spelling kills PBS episode of Postcards From Buster
8. James Guckert, aka White House Press Insider Jeff Gannon, is revealed as former gay "escort."
7. Anti-gay rights Mayor of Spokane, Washington James West, trades government jobs to young men on gay internet sites in exchange for dates.
6. Top Aide to Sen. Rick Santorum, Robert Traynham, admits he's gay, but supports Santorum anyway
5. A US official admits anti-gay ban is lifted when a gay soldier is deployed to Iraq, but used to kick them out when they return.
4. The American Family Assoc. boycott of American Girl dolls.
3. The Catholic Church moves to purge the priesthood of all gays, but says nothing about removing pedophiles
2. Far right blames Katrina on the gay community
1. George W. Bush

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.